

Appl. No. 09/988,829

Amendment dated August 29, 2003

Reply to Office Action dated March 18, 2003 and Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated August 26, 2003

Remarks

Claims 20-38 are pending in the application, with claims 20 being the independent claim. Based on the present Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

In the amended Figures 5 and 7, the element number "3" has been replaced with element "43" and "33", respectively, to overcome the Examiner's objection to the drawings..

The Abstract has been amended to correct the noted informality and to shorten the Abstract to less than 150 words.

In the specification, paragraph 33 has been amended to overcome the rejection to the specification.

The claims have been editorially amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and to correct any additional informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §112.

The indication that claims 25-36 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully noted.

Claims 20-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dhont (EP 0097986) in view of Berens (US 4,016,771).

Claim 20 recites: "wherein the exerting means further includes rings for guiding and holding the roll bodies at a mutual distance to each other **in the axial center region between the cam curves** with the aid of a spring that is arranged coaxial on the extended hub".

The Office Action cites Berens as teaching this feature. However, this recitation represents a considerable difference over the device disclosed in particular in the reference Berens. In Berens, the ring 12 keeps the roller bodies 11 at a mutual distance *to each other*, but the roller bodies 11 are not adjusted to the region of the axial center between the cam sleeves. Rather, the spring 13 in this cited reference causes the roller bodies 11 to always fit against the cam sleeve. This results in a delay if

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the oppositely-arranged cam sleeves are adjusted differently because the force of the spring 13 must be overcome until the element 10 comes to rest against the taper disc 3. The cam sleeve of the present invention always occupies an axial position that corresponds to the translation-dependent axial position of the displaceable taper disc.

Claims 37 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dhont (EP 0097986) in view of Berens (US 4,016,771) and further in view of Hohn (DE 3403704). Claims 37 and 38 depend from claim 20. Hohn fails to cure the deficiency in the rejection of claim 20. Accordingly, claim 37 and 38 are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

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All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Notice of Allowance with claims 20-38 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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